



## INDIANA DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY:

*Safeguarding  
Hoosiers by  
Planning,  
Preparing and  
Responding*

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# THE HOOSIER RESPONDER

Volume 2, Issue 3

MARCH 2006

## IDHS DELIVERS FUNDS TO ACQUIRE HOMES TO DECATUR OFFICIALS

Feb. 23, Indianapolis - The Indiana Department of Homeland Security (IDHS) delivered over \$2 million in hazard mitigation funds to City of Decatur officials today. The funding will enable the local government to purchase up to 35, flood-damaged homes located in the St. Mary's River floodplain. In 2004, the city received nearly \$750,000 to acquire 17 homes in the same area.

The city will demolish the homes and maintain the area as an open space in perpetuity. All of the homes sustained substantial damage during flooding in the summer of 2003 and are uninhabitable by state law.

"The financial and emotional hardships the affected citizens of Decatur have faced during the recovery process has made the past three years a long three years. I want to thank them for their patience while we all



Above: Phil Roberts, IDHS Division of Emergency Response Director, presents Decatur Mayor, Fred Isch with the over \$2 million check during a ceremony in Decatur.

worked together to secure these funds," said J. Eric Dietz, IDHS Executive Director. "On behalf of IDHS, I also want to extend my gratitude to Mayor Isch and the numerous local officials who worked so hard to make this day possible."

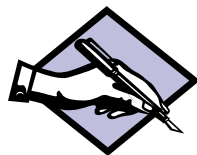
Phil Roberts, IDHS Division of Emergency Response Director, was on hand at a ceremony in Decatur today to present the city with a check for \$2,046,974. Roberts noted, "The Hazard Mitigation Program not only helps return this area to a green

space but will hopefully help homeowners who have been pointlessly making mortgage and property tax payments on homes they cannot even live in."

The FEMA Hazard Mitigation Program will pay 75 percent of the \$2.7 million project cost in the City of Decatur. The city will contribute 25 percent of the match requirement for the project, which is \$682,324.

IDHS' Hazard Mitigation Program provides financial and technical assistance to local governments, not-for-profits, individuals, and families to reduce the actual or potential risk of loss of life or property. Including the City of Decatur project, the IDHS program has acquired 91 properties since 2002. IDHS estimates a need for nearly \$26 million to acquire the remaining 267 identified flood-damaged properties statewide.

Source: IDHS Media Release



## From the Desk of Director Dietz

April marks the one-year anniversary of IDHS. Although a new department, this past year was not a slow year by any means. We responded to numerous disasters throughout Indiana over the past 12 months that included snow, ice, floods and tornadoes.

The creation of IDHS also spurred the advancement of new concepts. We placed IDHS liaisons in each of our 10 Homeland Security Districts (HSD). These

members of our "field staff" are the backbone of our communication and response for local disasters. My experiences over the past year reinforced my understanding of the importance of the local response following a disaster. Our HSD liaisons are in the field to assist local responders with a variety of issues, from securing resources to offering advice, to help our partners at the local level succeed.

After many years of discussing

the need for a state fire training system, we finally stopped just talking about the concept and acted. IDHS developed a plan for a training system, which Governor Daniels approved. We also initiated local planning to make this concept a reality and, thanks to approval of HB 1099 this week by the Indiana General Assembly and signature by Governor Daniels, we now have a funding stream to implement the concept.

(continued on pg. 8)

## IDHS Inspectors and Plan Reviewers Jointly Tour French Lick, West Baden Sites

Earlier this month, IDHS staff members traveled south to West Baden and French Lick for an inspection of one of Indiana's historical treasures. The team from the IDHS Division of Fire and Building Safety, Plan Review and Building Code Enforcement Sections conducted a walk through inspection of the restoration in progress at the French Lick Springs Resort and reviewed the proposed restoration of the West Baden Hotel, the sites encompassing the planned French Lick Springs Casino Boat.

The trip provided on-site construction experience for the IDHS review staff that performed the plan review for these projects. George Ridgeway, Project Architect, conducted a tour of the facilities for IDHS and discussed several code issues discovered and

corrected during the renovation and restoration of the sites. The estimated construction cost for the hotels and casino is approximately \$167.5 million.

According to Bonnie Robison, Plan Review Section Director, IDHS Division of Fire and Building Safety, Code Enforcement and Plan Review Branch, "The inspection of the French Lick resort and West Baden hotel by our staff enabled plan reviewers to visualize what they are looking at on paper and offered excellent 'hands on' learning experience. This first-time effort by our staff to bring plan reviewers alongside field inspectors will allow reviewers to visualize things from an inspector's perspective."

In addition to Robison, the following IDHS staff participated in

the inspection, Erik Kassig, Senior Code Official, Pat Crayton, Code Official, Dave Moses, Assistant Director, Chris Clouse, Building Code Enforcement Secretary, Randall Cooley, Code Official, Shelly Wakefield, Building Code Enforcement Director, and Don Bradley, State Building Commissioner and Code Enforcement and Plan Review Branch Director.

*For more information on the Building Code Enforcement Section, contact Shelley Wakefield, Building Code Enforcement Section Director, IDHS Division of Fire and Building Safety at 317-232-1407 or [swakefield@dhs.in.gov](mailto:swakefield@dhs.in.gov). For more information on the Plan Review Section, contact Bonnie Robison, Plan Review Section Director, IDHS Division of Fire and Building Safety, at 317-232-1407 or [brobi-son@dhs.in.gov](mailto:brobi-son@dhs.in.gov).*



Top: IDHS staff (L-R) Shelly Wakefield, Don Bradley, Pat Crayton, and Randall Cooley discuss with Project Architect George Ridgeway the restoration of the French Lick Springs Resort.

Above: The 250 foot free-span dome of the historic West Baden Hotel.

### A Message from the State Fire Marshal

One of the most important functions of government is protecting its citizens. Government at all levels is keenly aware of this now more than ever. As a result, many government officials realize the importance of developing a high-level of preparedness and determining clear management for all potential emergencies in their communities.

As in the past, the Office of the State Fire Marshal continues to provide local government support in times of fires, hazardous material mitigation, prevention, inspection and investigative services. However, as times change, we must constantly look forward to anticipate new approaches and provide clearer direction in mitigation and resolution of the challenges that our fire and emergency response personnel face.

Although many of us have heard it numerous times already, I

cannot stress enough the importance of an all hazards emergency response approach. We know departments across the state are looking at this approach as they strive for safer, more effective means of combating fire and emergencies like suppression, prevention, EMS, haz mat and technical rescue.

In hopes to assist our partners at the local level as we all look forward, my department is reviewing how we provide services to you and those you serve. In the months to come, we plan to present a number of ways to enhance and improve how all of us face the dangers and catastrophic emergencies of the future.

An initiative IDHS is advancing is one example of how we can enhance and improve our efforts by offering a multi-agency, multi-jurisdiction response in an emergency. The 10 Homeland

Security Districts (HSD) in Indiana promote a comprehensive, regional response to all hazards.

Currently, many of the HSDs focus on hazardous material mitigation. We hope to work closely with them as they prepare for more complex situations that will require new approaches to resolve a variety of events such as weapons of mass destruction, terrorism, natural disasters, conflagration fires, supporting neighboring states, or deployment nation wide.

As we jointly determine what is required of us to protect effectively our citizens, I think it is important we take a moment to ask some tough questions to determine the proper direction to provide better service. We should ask questions such as:

- How did you handle your last response?

*(continued on pg. 8)*





## March EMA Spotlight...

### HENDRICKS COUNTY

David Warren is the Director of the Hendricks County Emergency Management Agency. David's background displays a life-long commitment to the fire service. He retired after 30 years with Indianapolis' Washington Township Fire Department and joined Indianapolis' Wayne Township Fire Department in 1999. During his time in the fire service, he acquired training as a Hazardous Materials Technician, Fire Officer I and II, Emergency Medical Technician, Instructor II and III, and holds an associate in science degree in Fire Science. David is also a graduate of the Marion

County Sheriffs' Academy and former reserve Marion County Sheriff. He is currently a member of Indiana Task Force One where he serves as a Rescue Specialist and a Logistics Specialist. David responded to the attack on the World Trade Center on September 11, 2001 as a member of Task Force One. He also responded as a plans specialist for the Hendricks County Sheriff's Department SWAT Team after Hurricane Katrina in Jefferson Parrish, Louisiana. David accepted the Hendricks County EMA Director position in 2005, a part-time position, and continues to serve as a Lieutenant with

Wayne Township Fire Department.

#### *Hendricks County EMA progress:*

- Utilized Homeland Security Grant Program funds to:
  - Implement the initial phase of interoperability of the 800 MHz radio network within the county.
  - Assist the Hendricks County Sheriffs Department by purchasing a digital system to upgrading their fingerprinting capability and procuring more protective vest for sheriff's deputies.
  - Purchase an identification system for accountability



*David Warren, Director*  
Hendricks County  
Emergency Management Agency  
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of first responders and essential personnel. The system is Programmable Data Field 417 and smart card compliant.

### WAYNE COUNTY

Fred Griffin is the Director of the Wayne County Emergency Management Agency. A life-long resident of Wayne County, Fred started his career in emergency management in 1988 as Deputy Director of the agency and became Director in 1991. Locally, Fred also serves on the Wayne County Local Emergency Planning Committee as its Community Emergency Coordinator and Information Coordinator and is a member of the Reid Hospital emergency management committee, Wayne/Union County chapter of the American Red Cross board, Wayne County school safety commission, and as a volunteer firefighter with the

Centerville Fire and Rescue. He also assists IDHS by serving on Community Emergency Response Team steering committee and as an adjunct instructor for IDHS courses. Additionally, Fred holds numerous fire service, hazardous materials, terrorism, and EMA certifications. Earlier this year, he received the Emergency Services Professional of the Year Award from the Richmond-Wayne County Chamber of Commerce.

#### *Wayne County EMA Progress:*

- Utilized Homeland Security Grant Program funds to:
  - Purchase CBRNE and 800 MHz radios for all 39 first re-

Wayne County and advance detection and analysis equipment and training.

- Purchase PPE and mass decontamination equipment for the Richmond Fire Department's HazMat Team, which serves all of Wayne County.
- Support the Richmond Police Department, SWAT Team and Richmond Dive Rescue Team with specialized equipment purchases.
- Coordinated Wayne County's Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plan, now formally adopted by all jurisdictions in Wayne County.
- Completed in June 2005 Wayne County's formal recognition and adoption of NIMS and conducted several NIMS Train-the-Trainer courses for Wayne County agencies.
- Developed first-ever Strategic



*Fred Griffin, Director*  
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Emergency Management Agency  
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Preparedness Plan for Wayne County in 2004 and initiated the Community Emergency Response Team program in Wayne County.

- Assisted with a full-scale mass casualty exercise with numerous first responder organizations and local health care providers.



## IDHS' Fire Code Enforcement Section Inspects over 10,000 Facilities in 2005

A team of dedicated staff in the Fire Code Enforcement Section of IDHS' Division of Fire and Building Safety, Code Enforcement and Plan Review conducted more than 10,000 fire code inspections in 2005. Their work ensures a broad spectrum of facilities and venues - festivals, hospitals, nursing homes, schools, daycares, places of entertainment - are safe environments.

Fire code inspections help identify and eliminate potential fire hazards to Hoosiers in the places they live, work,

and play. Through a fire code inspection, an inspector verifies a building is constructed, used, and maintained in accordance with code standards. Fire and building code requirements *do not prevent* a fire but ensure maintenance and reinforcement of features, systems and processes *to minimize a fire's effects*, if one occurs.

IDHS is working to provide a balanced approach to its inspection program by educating building owners and occupants about potential hazards and

conditions that may endanger their lives or property when discovered. After identifying and explaining a violation or problem, an inspector will offer assistance by offering corrective solutions. By striking a balance between enforcement and education, the department hopes to meet more effectively fire safety objectives.

The Fire Code Enforcement Section consists of 25 inspectors, two supervisors and one director.

### Fire Code Enforcement 2005 Inspections

1,571
Schools
3,009
Day Care/Day Care Ministries
3,086
Places of Amusement/Entertainment
284
Explosive Magazines
1132
Healthcare Facilities
106
Group Homes/ Child Caring
Institutions
736
Jails/Prisons
88
Hotels/Motels



L-R: IDHS inspectors on the job. Steve Freeman inspecting a plastics manufacturing facility; Lonnie Lagle inspecting for a show at Con-seco Fieldhouse; and, Paul Lay reviewing fire alarm and sprinkler system maintenance documentation.

For more information on the Fire Code Enforcement Section, contact Debbie Frye, Fire Code Enforcement Director, IDHS Division of Fire and Building Safety, at 317-232-2228 or [dfrye@dhs.in.gov](mailto:dfrye@dhs.in.gov).

## Hoosier Safety Plate Update

Dolly Watkins, Council Coordinator with IDHS' Division of Planning, is working diligently to "revitalize" the Indiana Emergency Management, Fire and Building Services, and Public Safety Training Foundation. As part of her efforts, Dolly is busy working on several initiatives including updating the Foundation's membership and reviewing the

criteria used for Foundation money disbursement.

Dolly, in conjunction with other IDHS staff, will soon make recommendations to Director Dietz for more ways to effectively leverage the monies from Hoosier Safety License Plate sales. These recommendations will include, but are not limited to,

training first responders, sustaining training levels, and public safety recruitment initiatives. Please contact Dolly if you have any suggestions!

Also, look for an announcement regarding the next Foundation meeting in next month's newsletter.



For more information on the Foundation or to share your suggestions, contact Dolly Watkins, Council Coordinator, IDHS Division of Planning at 317-233-4477 or [dwatkins@dhs.in.gov](mailto:dwatkins@dhs.in.gov).

## An Overview of National Communications Systems

National Communications Systems (NCS) offers a wide range of National Security and Emergency Preparedness (NS/EP) communications services that support qualifying federal, state, local, and tribal government, industry, and non-governmental organization personnel in performing their NS/EP missions. These services designed to augment existing emergency communications capabilities include:

### Government Emergency Telecommunications Service

(GETS) - GETS provides priority call treatment for both local and long distance calls during hurricanes, earthquakes and other emergencies when telephone networks become congested. For more information visit [www.gets.ncs.gov](http://www.gets.ncs.gov).

### Wireless Priority Service (WPS) - WPS is an optional

feature available through regular cellular service to provide priority communications for key personnel during disasters or emergencies that cause congestion in wireless networks. For more information visit [www.wps.ncs.gov](http://www.wps.ncs.gov).

Telecommunications Service Priority (TSP) - TSP provides service vendors with a Federal Communications Commission (FCC)

mandate for prioritizing service requests by identifying those services critical to NS/EP. For more information visit [www.tsp.ncs.gov](http://www.tsp.ncs.gov).

For additional information:  
NCS Homepage: [www.ncs.gov](http://www.ncs.gov)  
Priority Telecommunications Support Center: 1-866-NCS-CALL (627-2255)  
NCS Area Representative:  
John Dinneen -214-797-3399,  
[john.dinneen@associates.dhs.gov](mailto:john.dinneen@associates.dhs.gov)

## IDHS' Elevators & Amusements Section: Helping Hoosiers Move Safely in All Directions

Every day, Hoosiers journey up and down buildings throughout the state in elevators. Every spring and summer, they enjoy amusement rides at fairs and festivals across the state. Without thought or hesitation, except for those with a little fear of the Ferris wheel, Hoosiers take pleasure in the safety of these devices thanks to the dedication of the men and women of IDHS' Elevator and Amusements Section.

Inspections of elevators in Indiana began in the 1950s. In 1986, inspections of amusement rides started. The Elevator and Amusements Section also inspects ski lifts, mechanical bulls, the Clarian People Mover in downtown Indianapolis, and, following an anticipated signature from the Governor, bungee jumps. Combined, minus the bungee jumps for now, there are over 17,250 such devices registered in Indiana.

### Elevator Inspections

Skylines across Indiana continue to progress upwards and IDHS inspectors work hard to make the buildings that comprise them safe. Although generally referred to as elevators, the section inspects all "lifting devices" in buildings that includes escalators, dumbwaiters, people movers, and various lifts.

During an inspection, the inspector ensures a lifting device meets all current standards and code requirements and will issue violations when found. Inspectors also verify performance of annual and five-year safety tests of the devices.

Inspectors must remain cognizant of their surroundings during an inspection. They work around moving mechanical equipment, ride on top of elevators with moving cables and counterweights in close proximity, inspect under elevators, and look into live electrical controllers.

In addition to conducting inspections and issuing violations, the section also issues permits and licenses for elevator installations, alterations, contractors and mechanics.

#### *Elevators & Amusements 2005 Inspections*

8,000
Periodic Lifting Device
1,035
New or Altered Elevator
831
Amusement Rides
(including violation re-inspections)
20
Ski Lifts
1
Scenic Chair Lift
1
Mechanical Bull

*The section is within the Code Enforcement  
& Plan Review Branch of IDHS' Division of  
Fire & Building Safety.*

### Amusement Inspections

Although most Hoosiers are still enjoying the warmth of the indoors during the month of February, this IDHS section is gearing up for the amusement ride season. During this month, the section mails out over a hundred packets that include amusement ride permit applications.

Once received, the section reviews the application to verify the amusement ride company is in compliance if previously issued any violations in addition

to insuring the company's insurance is current. The section schedules an inspection after validating all the necessary information.

On site, the IDHS inspectors first review the required paperwork detailing maintenance and preventive maintenance for each ride. They then they inspect each ride with a representative of the amusement ride company and issue any code violations.

If upon inspection of an amusement device inspectors find a major safety issue such as dysfunctional brakes or a safety stop switch, they issue a stop operation order for the ride until all safety systems function properly. For minor violations, inspectors issue a correction order and deadline to correct the problem(s). The company must submit paperwork detailing compliance with minor violations within the allotted time in order to continue operation of the ride.

### Staff

The Elevator and Amusements Section includes 16 inspectors responsible for the inspection of both lifting devices and amusement rides. Thirteen of the inspectors are certified by the National Association of Ride Safety Officials and the National Association of Elevator Safety Authorities. The remaining three inspectors are currently seeking certification and work under the supervision of certified inspectors. Indiana law requires elevator and amusement ride inspectors maintain these certifications and obtain necessary continuing education.



*Top: IDHS inspector Fred Whitaker prepares to access the top of an elevator to conduct an inspection.*

*Above: IDHS inspector Cecilla Ernste-Boxell inspects an amusement ride.*

*For more information on the Elevators and Amusements Section, contact Debra Jackson, Elevators and Amusements Section Director, IDHS Division of Fire and Building Safety, at 317-232-2671 or [djackson@dhs.in.gov](mailto:djackson@dhs.in.gov).*

## Mississippi American Legion Honors Operation Hoosier Relief

Amy Lindsey, IDHS staff member, recently accepted an award from the Mississippi American Legion on behalf of the State of Indiana in recognition of Operation Hoosier Relief. The operation combined the resources, including personnel, of seven state agencies and the Indiana National Guard to assist Mississippi in recovering from the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina. The first of three deployments of Indiana personnel departed for Mississippi

just five days after the hurricane struck. Each deployment included 180 to 220 personnel.

According to Johnny Bracy, Adjutant with the Mississippi American Legion, "I'm sure because of your help, past professionalism and kindness, many Mississippians will long remember their Hoosier friends and help."

Ms. Lindsey, IDHS' Emergency Management State Training Officer, served as a member

of Operation Hoosier Relief. During her acceptance of the award at the Mississippi American Legion Mid-Winter Conference, Lindsey detailed Indiana's efforts to serve the Mississippi coast during the state's six-week engagement. She noted the numbers of Hoosiers who gave their time and energy to help thousands of Mississippians recover from one of the most devastating natural disasters on American soil in centuries.



Above: Amy Lindsey with the award from the Mississippi American Legion for Operation Hoosier Relief.

## IDHS Welcomes Citizen Corps, Program Awards Weather Alert Radios



The Citizen Corps Program, a national program, is a grass-roots effort to involve citizens in hometown security through personal preparedness, training, and volunteer service. Citizens Corps programs include Volunteers in Police Service, Community Emergency Response Teams (CERT), Medical Reserves Corps, Fire Corps, and Neighborhood Watch. The program aims to create safer communities while preparing them to respond to potential

hazards.

The Office of Faith Based and Community Initiatives turned over control of the Indiana Citizens Corps Program to IDHS earlier this year. No stranger to the program since it already administered the CERT portion of the program, IDHS believes the Citizen Corps program fits in perfectly with its mission and looks forward to enhancing and expanding the program statewide.

Earlier this month, during Severe Weather Awareness Week, IDHS announced the Indiana Citizens Corps program awarded 1,500 weather alert radios to Citizen Corps Councils in the following counties are eligible to receive 100 weather alert radios each: Allen, Elkhart, Hendricks, Jennings, Johnson, Marion, Monroe, Porter, Posey, Scott, Spencer, Tippecanoe, Vanderburgh, and Warrick. Each council is responsible for offering appropriate training on

how to utilize the radio.

To learn more about the Corps program, visit [www.citizencorps.gov](http://www.citizencorps.gov). To learn more about weather alert radios, visit [www.weather.gov/nwr](http://www.weather.gov/nwr).

For more information on the Indiana Citizen Corps Program, contact Debbie Watson, Public Education Coordinator, IDHS Division of Training, at 317-233-5395 or [dwatson@dhs.in.gov](mailto:dwatson@dhs.in.gov).

## NIMS Corner...

Visit the *NIMS ALERT* page at [www.fema.gov/nims/](http://www.fema.gov/nims/)

IDHS implemented the National Incident Management Capability Assessment Support Tool (NIMCAST) program to help local governments set the necessary goals to achieve compliance with the National Incident Management System (NIMS). Additionally, NIMCAST serves as a reporting tool so IDHS remains informed on the status of compliance activities around the state thus enabling us to maximize our assistance efforts. County level emergency management directors

serve as local administrators of the program, establishing accounts for local agencies to log on and complete the assessment.

NIMCAST covers all aspects of NIMS requirements. Detailed NIMS requirements are outlined in "NIMS Tribal Government and Local Jurisdiction Compliance Activities" available at [www.fema.gov/nims/nims\\_compliance.shtm](http://www.fema.gov/nims/nims_compliance.shtm).

The federally mandated

deadline for compliance with NIMS requirements is September 30, 2006. Achieving compliance is critically important, since compliance directly impacts the distribution of 2006 homeland security grant monies to the counties.

For more information about NIMS, contact Dave Barrabee, Homeland Security Planner, IDHS Division of Planning, at 317-233-6116 or [dbarrabee@dhs.in.gov](mailto:dbarrabee@dhs.in.gov).

### NIMS FAQ:

**What level of training should I take? Entry Level**

- FEMA IS-700: NIMS, An Introduction
- ICS-100: Introduction to ICS or equivalent

**First Line, Single Resource, Field Supervisors**

- IS-700, ICS-100 and ICS-200: Basic ICS or the equivalent

**Middle Management: (Strike Team Leaders, Division Supervisors, EOC Staff, etc.)**

- IS-700, IS-800 NRP, ICS-100, ICS-200 and in FY07, ICS-300
- Command and General Staff; Area, Emergency and EOC Managers
- IS-700, IS-800, ICS-100, ICS-200 and in FY07, ICS-300 and ICS-400



## IU Kokomo Offering New HS/EM Certificate

Across the country, institutions of higher education recognize the demand for accessible homeland security educational opportunities that produce well-educated graduates and enhance the existing skills of professionals already in the field. Indiana's higher education community is no exception and Indiana University Kokomo (IU Kokomo) offers a perfect example of this trend.

This past fall, IU Kokomo started to offer courses toward a Homeland Security/Emergency Management (HS/EM) certificate. A unique feature of the program allows students to earn the certificate through a "hybrid" format. The format allows them to complete a portion of their coursework on-line and another portion in a traditional classroom setting. This enables

busy, working professionals the opportunity to continue their education and build their professional credentials in a manner that best fits their schedule.

According to Dr. Robert Dible, Assistant Dean and Professor of Public Affairs at IU Kokomo, "We are currently discussing expanding the program to offer a Bachelor of Science degree. However, following Hurricane Katrina, we felt we could not wait until the next disaster to offer Indiana's emergency personnel an educational opportunity such as this and that it was the appropriate time to launch the program."

Dible also noted that although the program does target state and local officials currently in the homeland security and

emergency management fields, IU Kokomo is reaching out to non-profits and private entities in hopes they will realize the benefits of obtaining the education and training offered through the HS/EM certificate. Courses offered through the HS/EM certificate at IU Kokomo include:

- Principles and Practices in Homeland Security
- Foundations of Homeland Security
- Terrorism and Public Policy
- Introduction to Emergency Management
- Public Administration and Emergency Management

For more information on the program, visit [www.iuk.edu/scs](http://www.iuk.edu/scs) or call 800-991-1459.



Above: A team from IU Kokomo recently presented information on the HS/EM Certificate to members of the Emergency Management/Homeland Security Advisory Board. L-R Fred Hakes, Dr. Karl Besel, Dr. Kelly Brown and Dr. Dible.

## General Assembly Honors Governor's Cup Winners

The Indiana General Assembly recently passed a resolution honoring the Elkhart Fire Department's Vito Palumbo and Grant Roberts for their second consecutive first place finish in Governor's Cup Ambulance Competition. The competition, held during the 2005 Emergency Response Conference hosted by IDHS, allows participants to display their skills and proficiencies while serving as an educational opportunity for them and spectators.



Above: Director Dietz, along with EMS Commission Member Gary Miller, presented the Governor's Cup Award to Palumbo, far left, and Roberts, far right.

## IDHS Employees Receive Governor's Award

Late last month, IDHS employees Caitlin Intermill, Vanessa Higgins and Dave Perkins were among 52 state employees honored with the Governor's Public Service Achievement Award. The award recognizes employees who improve efficiency, provide better service and stretch tax dollars.

Intermill and Higgins received the award in recognition of their work to account for \$23 million in homeland security grant funds advanced to counties. According to the award announcement, "The result of this project was 100% accountability of the entire \$23 million, which represents a direct savings to Indiana taxpayers."

Both Intermill and Higgins stated, "It was an honor to be recognized and in the company of such outstanding public servants."

Perkins received his award in recognition of his work at commander of Operation Hoosier Relief. According to the award

announcement, "In just four days, Dave developed, assembled and led the deployment of 213 people to the Gulfport/Biloxi

area. Dave spent six weeks there leading the task force which provided medical treatment to 9,321, mental health services to 11,847 victims and maintained order through law enforcement support."

Perkins stated, "It was wonderful receiving the recognition and award for the deployment of "Operation Hoosier Relief", but as with any large scale operation, it could not have happened without the cooperation and support of all the task force members and agencies involved. The operation was a success because everyone worked hard as a team of professionals, supporting the state of Mississippi while also finding time to care and show compassion for those affected by this devastating event."



Above: IDHS Governor's Public Service Achievement Award winners (L-R) Caitlin Intermill, Dave Perkins, and Vanessa Higgins. State agencies submit nominations of individuals or teams for review and recommendation to the governor for the award. Winners receive a medal and \$1,000. In 2006, approximately 100 state employees will receive this award during two ceremonies.

## From the Desk of Director Dietz

*cont'd from pg. 1*

HB 1099 also provides the first real funding for another new program, the Indiana Disaster Relief Fund. Again, lessons learned over this past year taught us how important state support to the local level is. We are working through some of the details yet on how the fund will operate but we expect it will provide support to disaster response in the near future.

Following IDHS' response to Hurricane Katrina, we learned a tremendous amount about how we might better provide emergency response in Indiana. The most important discovery we made was the effectiveness and efficiency of deploying a multidiscipline task force for a response effort. Indiana's task force, Operation Hoosier Relief, not only helped rapidly stand up government services following the disaster, but many Hoosier responders garnered first hand knowledge on how to deal with a large scale disaster

that will only benefit Indiana in any response efforts in our own state.

IDHS will utilize our HSD field staff to advance the task force deployment methodology in response to events in Indiana. Following a disaster, we will confirm support needs at the local level with our field staff and deploy recovery assets based on our Operations Plans for disaster response. IDHS Division of Planning is currently working on a planning model to cause a more proactive response from IDHS post-disaster so local government will wonder where help is. Rather, we want local government to wonder how we got the right thing in the right place so quickly.

Another concept moved forward is the Indiana Intelligence Fusion Center. Recently approved legislation by the Indiana General Assembly and an Executive Order by Governor Daniels combined

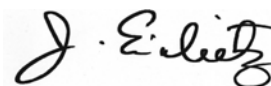
provides us the authority to begin unifying efforts of law enforcement to make our citizens safer from criminal elements or terrorism.

Unfortunately, not every effort we brought forward over the past year was successful. Our efforts to establish certification for emergency managers and convince counties of the need for fulltime emergency management agency directors fell short. EMA directors are the cornerstone in developing multidisciplinary plans and managing the complex response regulations from FEMA. Therefore, we are not giving up and will continue to work to gain support for this effort.

I want to thank everyone who participated in making this a successful year. In particular, I want to thank Senator Tom Wyss and Representative Bill Ruppel for their support and leadership in improving IDHS.

I also want to thank the over 260 IDHS employees for their hard work in making our first year as a team so productive. Last month, I had the honor of attending a ceremony where three of our team members received the Governor's Public Service Achievement Award. I know my fellow IDHS team members join me in congratulating them on this honor. We look forward to more nominees doing great measurable work.

Indiana is a very diverse state that requires strong emergency services to support our economy and provide for the safety of our citizens. IDHS starts off year two knowing there is much more to do.



## Thanks for Your Input!!!

IDHS wants to thank everyone who participated in the completion of the 2006 Program and Capability Review and Homeland Security Grant Program Application. The input from e-mails, surveys and forums resulted in a comprehensive application that is a better product thanks to this statewide group effort.

The State of Indiana and the Indianapolis Urban Area submitted their application for the 2006 US Department of Homeland Security's Homeland Security Grant Program on time. The application, based on the established state and urban area homeland security strategies, consists of:

- The state's investment

justifications detailing Indiana's needs;

- The urban area's investment justifications; and
- The combined state/urban area enhancement plan, the multi-year plan that expands on the Indiana Strategy for Homeland Security and explains how the initiatives will build Indiana's capabilities.

The State of Indiana applied for \$37,608,326 and the Indianapolis Urban Area (Marion and Hamilton Counties) applied for \$15,519,045. IDHS anticipates a decision on both awards by May 31, 2006.

Thank you again to everyone who assisted in helping IDHS submit an excellent application.

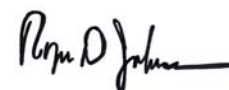
## A Message from the State Fire Marshal

*cont'd from pg. 2*

- How did the response differ from those of the last ten years?
- Did you do everything appropriately?
- Did you accomplish the tasks with safe, effective management operations?
- What could you do better?

Although no one can predict what the future holds, we must make every effort to prepare and train for what may come. We are partners in protecting Hoosiers. We will seek your input, and support, as we work together to serve our fellow citizens.

Be safe in your activities. Look out for those serving by your side. Train like you work.





# Mark Your Calendar!



## March 18-19

Fire Chief Orientation  
(Warsaw)

## March 21

Fire & Building Inspector Orientation  
(Indianapolis)

## March 23

Pandemic Flu Summit  
(West Lafayette)

## March 25-26

Fire Chief Orientation  
(Brownsburg)

## March 28

Haz-Mat Awareness Course  
(Shelbyville)

## April 1-2

Haz-Mat Operations Course  
(Waterloo)

## April 4

Fire & Building Safety Commission  
(Indianapolis)

Haz-Mat Operations Course  
(Shelbyville)

## April 5

Annual CSEPP Exercise

## April 7-8

Homeland Security Higher Education Conference  
(Lebanon)

## April 19

Regulated Amusement Device Safety Board Meeting  
(Indianapolis)

## April 22-23

Ground Search Techniques-Technician Level  
(Mari Hulman George Search & Rescue Training Center)

## April 29

Basic Tracking/Trailing  
(Mari Hulman George Search & Rescue Training Center)

## May 3

Fire & Building Safety Commission Meeting  
(Indianapolis)

## May 8

IERC Meeting  
(Indianapolis)

## May 19

EMS Commission Meeting  
(Indianapolis)

## May 20-21

Ground Search Techniques - Operations Level  
(Mari Hulman George Search & Rescue Training Center)

## June 6

Fire & Building Safety Commission Meeting  
(Indianapolis)

## June 7

Boiler & Pressure Vessel Rules Board  
(Indianapolis)

## June 10-11

SAR Management - Awareness Level  
(Mari Hulman George Search & Rescue Training Center)

## June 24-25

Air Scent—Intermediate Level  
(Mari Hulman George Search & Rescue Training Center)

## June 27-29

National CSEPP Workshop  
(Indianapolis)



## Announcements

- The **Indiana National Emergency Number Association** will hold its annual state conference in Indianapolis April 10-11. For more information, visit [www.innena.org](http://www.innena.org).
- The **Fire Department Instructor's Conference** is April 24-29 in Indianapolis. For more information, visit <http://fdic06.events.pennnet.com/fl/index.cfm>.
- The deadline for submitting the **Assistance to Firefighters Grant** (AFG) is 5 PM (EDT) April 7, 2006. AFG applications are automated and accessible via the AFG web site: [www.firegrantsupport.com](http://www.firegrantsupport.com). Fire departments with questions regarding this grant opportunity can visit [firegrants@dhs.gov](mailto:firegrants@dhs.gov) or call 1-866-274-0960.

Please welcome to IDHS...

Karen Wilkinson, Investigator  
HSD 2 & 3 (IDHS Division of  
Fire & Building Safety)



*Indiana Department of Homeland Security  
Safeguarding Hoosiers by  
Planning, Preparing and Responding*

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*The Hoosier Responder* is a publication of the Indiana Department of Homeland Security. Please direct any questions or comments to the IDHS Public Information and Outreach Office at 317-232-6632.